

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07 SAJ-01 /086 W

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R 300148Z SEP 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4487

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY CH

SUBJECT: TYPHOON MODIFICATION RESEARCH: STORMFURY

REF: A. STATE 128792, 1974; B. PEKING 1225, 1974;

C. PEKING 1747, 1974

SUMMARY: FIFTEEN MONTHS AFTER WE FIRST RAISED THE QUESTION OF MOVING PROJECT STORMFURY TO THE PACIFIC WITH THE MFA, THE CHINESE BUREAUCRACY HAS COME BACK WITH A FLAT "NO" TO OUR PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 29, MFA U.S. AFFAIRS DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHEN CHCS-CHANG CALLED IN USLO OFFICER TO GIVE FORMAL PRC REVNTSTO OUR APPROACHES LAST YEAR ON PROJECT STORMFURY. CHEN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
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"ON JULY 19 AND OCTOBER 9, 1974, THE UNITED STATES

LIAISON OFFICE IN CHINA TWICE HANDED OVER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF PROJECT STORMFURY TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND SOUGHT CHINA'S OPINION ON THE MATTER. WE NOTED THE INDICATION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WOULD NOT PUT THE PROJECT INTO EFFECT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. CHINA'S DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HAVE MADE A STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL AND OUR OFFICIAL REPLY IS A FOLLOWS: BEING A COUNTRY CONSIDERABLY AFFECTED BY TYPHOONS, CHINA CANNOT APPROVE THE CONDUCTING OF THE PROJECT WHEN ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE UNCERTAIN." CHEN ADDED THAT THIS STATEMENT MADE THE POSITION OF THE PRC QUITE CLEAR AND THAT THE CHINESE WERE CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH THE UNKNOWN EFFECTS WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED BY EXPERIMENTS CONNECTED WITH PROJECT STORMFURY.

2. COMMENT: CHINESE HAVE NOT SURPRISINGLY INTERPRETED OUR REQUEST FOR THEIR VIEWS AS A PROMISE NOT TO PROCEED ON STORMFURY WITHOUT THEIR APPROVAL. GIVEN THE LENGTH OF TIME IT TOOK THEM TO COME UP WITH THEIR NEGATIVE DECISION, WE DOUBT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY ANY EXPERT ARGUMENTS WE ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP. IT MAY BE WORTH RAISING WITH CHINESE AGAIN A FEW YEARS FROM NOW, BUT WE DOUBT IT WOULD BE FRUITFUL TO ASK FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR POSITION AT THIS TIME.
BUSH

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